

# JapanQuest Journeys *Bespoke Luxury Journeys to Japan*

## Sharing the Best of Japan

Let JapanQuest Journeys expertly lead you on an unforgettable and compelling trip full of intimate discoveries through the real Japan, through the seasons of a country traditional yet modern, and rich in scenic beauty and cultural heritage.



### ***A Journey to Matsumoto---A Charming Castle Town Located at the Foothills of the Majestic Japanese Alps***

*by Philip Rosenfeld  
Managing Director and Co-Founder*

**At the end of October, I journeyed to Matsumoto, a charming castle town located at the foothills of the majestic Japan Alps in Nagano Prefecture.** Matsumoto is one of my favorite towns in Japan and I always look forward to the opportunity to visit there. Autumn is an especially beautiful time of year to visit Matsumoto as the cool crisp air allows for a picture perfect view of Matsumoto's four hundred year old castle, a national treasure, set against the backdrop of the Japan Alps with their first dusting of snow.

On this recent trip to Matsumoto, I had the pleasure of staying at Myojinkan, a wonderful ryokan or Japanese inn located approximately forty minutes outside of town. As I passed through the forests and valleys laden with autumn foliage on my way to Myojinkan, my sense of anticipation gradually heightened and I was not to be disappointed. Myojinkan offered not only splendid rooms but a wonderful onsen or Japanese bath where one can peacefully relax in enticingly warm water while gazing upon a beautiful mountain stream. The food at Myojinkan was excellent with an



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abundance of local produce and seasonal vegetables.

A visit to Matsumoto is not complete without a stroll down Nakamachi Dori with its Edo period kura or storehouses, many of which have been converted into restaurants and shops. Without fail, I always leave Matsumoto with an antique or local craft as a remembrance of my visit there. **Matsumoto can be visited on an overnight trip from Tokyo or as part of a journey that will take you onwards to the delightful town of Takayama.**

## ***Venturing to the Exquisite Nezu Art Museum and Japanese Gardens***

*by Scott Gilman*

*Managing Director and Co-Founder*

**On a recent long weekend getaway to Tokyo, I took the opportunity to revisit the Nezu Art Museum located in the elegant Minami Aoyama section of Tokyo.** I was first struck by the expansive outdoor entrance way lined with perfectly set bamboo and trimmed foliage. As I entered the recently gentrified edifice, I encountered an open and contemporary architectural style to house its vast rotating collections. In the course of a year,

many Japanese and



East Asian arts are displayed (including 7 works designated as National Treasures). I was fortunate to view a beautiful Chinese celadon and bronze exhibition with works dating back to the 12th century or earlier.

Peering through the glass facade, I was immediately intrigued by Nezu's exquisite Japanese gardens with its rolling slopes, stepping stones, tea houses and an extensive collection of stone lanterns perfectly placed throughout the colorful fauna. On a beautiful Autumn day, it was a serene stroll well worth taking. I am anxiously looking forward to a journey in the spring when Nezu showcases its Japanese screen or "byobu" collection. **Nezu is a must see for lovers of art and Japanese gardens and a favorite suggested venue.**

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**With our deep insider knowledge** gained through decades of first-hand experience and with our extensive network of personally selected experts and guides, JapanQuest Journeys gives you unsurpassed access by leading you to the hidden spots of authentic Japan elusive to all but the locals. **We will show you the most exciting and timeless places** that remain off well-trodden paths, and offer you the chance to explore Japan's mysteries and delights undisturbed and in-depth, unlocking century-old secrets one by one throughout your journey.

**Our clients represent high-end travelers worldwide;** discerning individuals who want platinum service and desire to go beyond the surface and immerse themselves in Japan.

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## About Us

JapanQuest Journeys is a boutique firm specializing in bespoke "tailor-made" luxury journeys to Japan with an unparalleled and undiluted single-country focus. With offices in the US and Japan, we deliver a wealth of unique Japanese expertise based upon decades of first-hand experiences and an intimate understanding of the cultural, historic and modern landscape. We will share extraordinary experiences and insider access -- making available the "real" Japan through an extensive network of locally cultivated relationships.

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